

- **Hispanic:** A person of Spanish or Portuguese culture with origins in Mexico, South or Central America, or the Caribbean Islands, Spain, or Portugal regardless of race
- **Asian American:** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian Subcontinent, or the Pacific
- **Native American or Alaskan Native:** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North America.

**Female Business Enterprise (FBE):** A business concern which is at least 51-percent owned by one or more females or, in the case of a corporation, at least 51 percent of the stock of which is owned by one or more females, and the management and daily business operations of which are **controlled** by one or more females who own it. The 51-percent owners must be U.S. citizens or resident aliens.

**Person with a Disability (PBE):** A business concern which is at least 51-percent owned by one or more persons with a disability or, in the case of a corporation, at least 51-percent of the stock of which is owned by one or more persons with a disability, and the management and daily business operations of which are **controlled** by one or more persons with a disability who own it. The 51 percent-owners must be U.S. citizens or resident aliens. The Act also qualifies not-for-profit agencies for persons with a disability organized pursuant to Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (this is the only instance in which not-for-profit entities are eligible under the Act).

**Combinations:** When a business concern is owned by at least 51 percent of any **combination of minority persons, females, or persons with disabilities**, even though none of the three classes alone holds at least a 51-percent interest, the ownership requirement for purposes of the Business Enterprise Act is considered to be met. The certification category for the business is that of the class holding the largest ownership in the business. If

two or more classes have equal ownership interests, the business shall determine the certification category.

**Annual Sales Limitation**

Eligible businesses must have annual gross sales of **\$27 million or less** for the most recent fiscal period. However, businesses with gross sales over \$27 million can apply for a waiver to participate in the program on an individual contract basis, if the contract will provide significant employment and/or subcontracting opportunities for minorities, females, and persons with disabilities.

**For More Information**

You can obtain more information about the program and the necessary forms by contacting:

Business Enterprise Program for  
Minorities, Females, and Persons with  
Disabilities  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 West Randolph Street  
Suite 3-350  
Chicago, Illinois 60601


Telephone:

(312) 814-4190 (Voice or TDD/TTY)  
(800) 356-9206 (BEP Toll-Free Line)  
(800) 526-0844 (Illinois Relay Center)  
(312) 814-5539 (Fax)

[www.state.il.us/cms/1\\_selling/bepprgrm.htm](http://www.state.il.us/cms/1_selling/bepprgrm.htm)  
(Internet)

*Program Authority:  
Business Enterprise Program for  
Minorities, Females, and Persons with  
Disabilities Act, (30 ILCS 575),  
44 Illinois Administrative Code 10*


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**State of Illinois**  
**Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor**

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**Illinois Department of  
Central Management Services**  
**Paul J. Campbell, Acting Director**

BUSINESS ENTERPRISE
PROGRAM FOR MINORITIES,
FEMALES, AND PERSONS
WITH DISABILITIES

The Business Enterprise for Minorities, Females, and Persons with Disabilities Act helps state government promote the economic development of businesses certified as owned and controlled by minorities, females, and persons with disabilities.

The Business Enterprise Council
The Act established the Business Enterprise Council to oversee the Business Enterprise Program (BEP). The council comprises 10 individuals representing businesses that are owned by minorities, females, or persons with disabilities;

Program Activities
Day-to-day activities designed to help meet the contracting goal include:

Agency Training
Program staff work with each agency's purchasing group to educate them about the Act and provide them with information about BEP-certified businesses interested in contracting with the state.

Compliance and Monitoring
Program staff help ensure that agencies actively consider BEP certified businesses when issuing bids/proposals or when entering into contracts.

Vendor Outreach
Through formal means, such as the annual matchmaker conference, and informal means, such as working one-on-one with individual vendors, BEP staff are constantly in contact with businesses that may qualify for the program.

Certification
To determine progress towards meeting the contracting goal, we need to distinguish businesses owned and controlled by minorities, females, and persons with disabilities from other vendors. We do so through the certification process.

pleted to ensure access to the state's procurement system. The Bidder's Application Form (BAF) gives information needed to enter a firm into CMS' computerized procurement system.

Certification Reciprocity
The Business Enterprise Program works toward making the certification process less burdensome. To that end we have established certification reciprocity agreements with the following entities:

- Chicago Minority Business Development Council (CMBDC)
- Women's Business Development Center (WBDC)
- Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)

Through these efforts we hope to greatly increase the number of businesses owned and controlled by minorities, females, and persons with disabilities who participate in the state procurement process and to ultimately increase the number that win state contracts.

Program Eligibility
The program is open to:

Minority Business Enterprise (MBE):
A business concern which is at least 51-percent owned by one or more minority persons or, in the case of a corporation, at least 51 percent of the stock of which is owned by one or more minority persons, and the management and daily business operations of which are controlled by one or more minority individuals who own it.

- Black/African American: A person having origins in any of the black racial groups in Africa

VENDOR INQUIRY FORM
Yes, I wish to receive a Certification Application for the State of Illinois Business Enterprise Program.

PLEASE CHECK each of the following that are applicable:
African American Asian American Caucasian Female Hispanic Native American Person with a Disability

Check all that apply:
1) Annual Sales Under \$14 Million Over \$14 Million
2) Type of Organizational Structure: Sole Proprietorship Partnership Corporation LLC or LLP
3) How much of the business do you own?

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE
Name/Title Business Name Type of Business Telephone
Address City State Zip Fax E-mail
How did you hear about BEP? Check all that apply:
Direct Mail BEP Staff Other (specify):